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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, EUR/PGI, EUR/SE

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [PREF](#) [TU](#) [TIP](#) [IN](#) [TURKEY](#)

SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: TURKISH MEDIA ATTENTION, October 16-31, 2005

[¶1.](#) In response to G/TIP inquiries, national and international media sources published the following news articles about TIP in Turkey. Text of articles originally published in Turkish is provided through unofficial local FSN translation.

[¶2.](#) Published by Hurriyet on Monday, October 17:

TITLE: Six Sex Slaves, Including a Pregnant Woman, Saved

BEGIN TEXT: Moldovan M.A. (26), who took refuge at the Antalya Police Department, claimed that Sedat Ugurkan (26) forced her and her two sisters into prostitution. She explained that she fled the house that they were kept in by tying a bed sheet to the balcony.

The police raided the house and detained Sedat Ugurkan and saved O.F. (21), who is pregnant, and V.F. (19).

M.A. said that she was kidnapped in Izmir and brought to Antalya. She added that she was subject to torture with iron bars and forced into prostitution.

O.F. said, "He sold us and also forced us to be with him. When they realized that I was pregnant, they tried to sell me to other pimps for \$3,000. They decided not to buy me when they learned I was pregnant. So they replaced me with a woman from another house."

In a raid on a second house, Ukrainian O.Y. (25) and N.D. (22) and Georgian N.O. were saved. Metin Marasli (43), Ramazan Celebi (46), Mehmet Turgut (44), Mehmet Kabadayi (34), Selim Coman (26) and Moldovan Nino Sarikaya were detained for forcing women into prostitution. The gang members reportedly had a criminal record on mediating for prostitution and human trafficking. END TEXT.

[¶3.](#) Also reported by Hurriyet on Monday, October 17:

TITLE: Those who sleep with sex slaves are guilty of rape

BEGIN TEXT: Men in England who are with women who are either sex slaves or who have fallen in the hands of prostitution gangs can be charged with rape. Ministry of the Interior Tony McNulty told the Observer, "Even a man without intention who has sex with such women are guilty of rape." McNulty continued, "For example, a woman who tells her customer that she is being forced to prostitute and that customer having paid for the services, without argument, is guilty of rape." The Observer noted that the Minister's words do not imply a change to the law, but rather there will be new applications of the law. END TEXT.

[¶4.](#) Published by Vatan on Tuesday, October 18:

TITLE: Pimp Priest gets 2.5 years in prison

BEGIN TEXT: A 42-year-old priest assigned to Midilli Island in Greece was found guilty of pimping and given a sentence of 2.5 years and a fine of 2,000 Euros. The priest, in response to the charges of pimping a 28-year-old Russian woman and a 22-year-old Polish woman, said, "I really felt sorry for these women because they were not getting paid for sleeping with men. I was giving the money I collected from customers to them. The allegations are slanderous." It was noted that relations with the military were good due to the fact that the priest and the two pimped women went to the barracks together. The priest's attorney, in defense of his client, stated, "Everyone who lives here has slept with these two women." The principal of the regional high school was seen at the arraignment to show his support for the priest. END TEXT.

[¶5.](#) Published the The Miami Herald (www.miami.com) on Tuesday, October 18:

TITLE: Azerbaijan asks Dade how to fight slavery

BEGIN TEXT: With the threat of financial aid from the United States being cut off, beset by public corruption and plagued by sex slave trafficking, the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan needs help.

It found some this week in Miami.

On Monday, a group of prosecutors from Azerbaijan met with their counterparts at the Miami-Dade state attorney's office to learn how American prosecutors handle sex crimes and help victims cope with the trauma.

"Anytime we can assist prosecutors around the world helping victims of sexual abuse get justice, it's in the interest of our office," said Assistant State Attorney Joshua Weintraub, head of the sexual battery division.

The problems plaguing Azerbaijan are not uncommon to former Soviet republics.

Tucked next to the Caspian Sea between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has become a hub for trafficking in human cargo: Women and children are sold as sex slaves to countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Turkey.

The U.S. State Department has called the country's efforts to prosecute traffickers "anaemic." In 2004, only 106 trafficking-related investigations were reported, of which only 10 resulted in convictions - down from the previous year.

In terms of monetary aid, the State Department lists Azerbaijan on its "Tier 2 watch list." Tier 3 countries, such as Cuba, get no humanitarian aid from the United States.

But progress is slowly being made, officials say.

Last year, the government outlined a national plan to battle corruption and crime. This year, an anticorruption law was passed, and antitrafficking legislation is being drafted.

"We have the political will to create very effective legislation to fight these types of crimes," Bahruz Mahmudov, the head of human resources for the Azerbaijan Prosecutor General's Office, said after presenting a keepsake rug to Miami-Dade prosecutors as a show of thanks.

Intertwined in that battle against human trafficking is the prosecution of sexual abuse cases, which in many developing countries often go unreported because of apathy and cultural stigmas.

The idea to visit with the prosecutors sprang from Beth Sreenan, a legal advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan who once was a prosecutor in Miami.

On Monday, the visitors sat down with 10 prosecutors, attorneys from the American Bar Association and several representatives from nongovernmental agencies, such as the Azerbaijan Association of Young Leaders, which play a crucial role in advocating change in the former republic.

Miami-Dade prosecutors explained how they meet with victims of sexual assaults, interview suspects and gather important forensic evidence.

They also talked about coordinating counseling for victims and using task force methods to involve other agencies in the cases.

"In Azerbaijan, we do not have the shelters. We do not have the hot lines," Sreenan said. "What we are trying to do is develop the institutional cooperation at all levels and a larger level of trust between the NGOs and the government." END TEXT.

16. Published by Tempo Magazine on Tuesday, October 18:

TITLE: Slave Market

BEGIN TEXT: Date: October 11, 2005. Place: Umranije, one of the modern shanty-towns of Istanbul. We are in a first-floor office on the busiest street of this sub-province. On its sign it says that they find nannies, employees without children to work at villas, and nurses. We are in the single-room office of a consulting company.

The owner of the company wears a suit and he is middle-

aged. He did not want to talk to a tape recorder because of security reasons, but he talked when I turned off the recorder.

"There is slave market in Istanbul that is carried out under the guise of a consultation company. I listen to the foreign women who come here for work. There are Ukrainian, Uzbek and Bulgarians who are raped and beaten. I also know women who are taken from such companies and sold for prostitution."

When I asked for an address or a contact person, he refused to share this with a journalist because he was afraid. The only result that I had was that I was on the right path. I found myself in hot pursuit.

The information was that some consultation companies, which were established under the guise of finding nannies, nurses and servants, created an almost slave market. Women are being rented from one company to another without any guarantees or protection.

On the second day, I am again in Umraniye. I head down a street right across from a modern and luxurious residential area. I had called the company the day before and told them that I was looking for a foreign nanny. We set up an appointment for the next day.

When I walked into the building, I noticed the humidity. I noticed a few women inside who looked foreign. I asked for the owner, with whom I had talked to on the phone. He came and we shook hands. He invited me to his office. M.B. did not have a sign on the door indicating that he had a company there. He knew only my name, and without checking out who I was and not asking who recommended me, acted eager to reach a deal in this slave market. If I paid the money, I could take a woman out right that moment. There is no contract or agreement. Where do I take her? To whom do I take her? Am I going to hurt her? There is no answer to any of these questions. At least it is not important for the company owner.

I could immediately take away a Bulgarian woman if I paid the \$350 monthly salary and the 60 million TL leave expense, as well as the 70 percent commission to the company. But my purpose was to collect information. I kept bombarding him with questions that a regular client would not think of asking. M.B. responded, "I currently have one woman. There are those who will arrive in three to four days. They arrive by boat. But I do not know today how old they are and what their specialties are. I have a woman broker. She brings them."

M.B.: You will pay 350 USD monthly and pocket money for her expenses on her days off. This is the lowest price. We get 15 million TL per week for the day off. They take one day off each week. They leave in the morning and come back in the evening. This is the monthly salary. For example, Bulgarians have to exit every three months. We have women from 25 to 55 years of age. I work mostly with Bulgarians and Uzbeks.

Q: How much do I pay you?

M.B.: We charge a 70 percent commission. For example, if you are not pleased with her, we immediately replace her.

Q: Would I be in a difficult position legally? It is legally wrong?

M.B.: Legally speaking, they do not have work permits. In short, it is illegal. But there are a lot of such foreign women who are working. Everybody works like this. Yes, they are illegal, but then there are many workers in Turkey who are not enjoying social security.

Q: Do you pay tax?

M.B.: Companies have to obtain permission to employ foreigners. So they work illegally, without permission.

Q: Are we going to enter into a contract?

M.B.: We do not need to sign a contract because there is no legal aspect to it. If you like, I can give you a receipt confirming that you made a payment for consultation.

Q: If I talked to a young woman, what would be her price?

M.B.: Young ones will not go for less than 500-600 USD.

Q: If the woman steals something and runs away, what

would I do?

M.B.: We keep the passports of these women. Trust is very important and we guarantee the work. This has happened to some of our clients in the past. In order to prevent this, we keep their passports.

Q: For how long have you been involved in this business?

M.B.: I have been doing this for seven months, but I came a long way. I sent two people to Cyprus last week to the house of a mother of a famous artist.

Q: How do women come to you? Is the Mafia involved?

M.B.: Foreigners come here and spend some money. They pay a commission to those who bring them here. For example, a woman brings them to me. In other words, the Mafia is not involved. If they individually wanted to come, they would not be able to. Where would they go? They do not know where to go. But certainly there are those who are involved in other businesses under the guise of consultation.

I was encouraged with this chat that I had in the consultation company. Look what is being experienced in Istanbul: a slave market. As I delved deeper, I noticed that these consultation companies were all over town, from Kadikoy to Bostanci, Bakirkoy to Sisli, and Besiktas to Umraniye. They established a slave market under the guise of human resources.

On the third day, I called one company on the recommendation of another. When I told them that I wanted to interview them and the foreign nannies as a "Tempo" reporter, I got the same response, "Hold on for a minute," but I could not manage to talk to the bosses. I was not given appointments either. Some of them claimed, "We do not employ foreigners." So the only remaining method was to pretend to be a client.

This time my appointment is in Sirkeci. I am facing a broker who rents women either to clients or to such companies. He gave me an appointment at a hotel that he owns. It is on one of the side streets on the Sultanahmet-Sirkeci tramline. I was surprised when I saw the hotel. This four-story hotel was in very bad shape. Inside looked like those in the old Turkish movies where peasants coming to a big city go. In the lobby there were five rows of very dirty armchairs. There was an old television. I saw the person that I talked to on the phone. He was in his 60s and spoke with an East (Kurdish) accent and one of his feet was on the coffee table in front of him.

His phones rang constantly. His conversations proved that I was at the right address. Haggling over prices. A new Georgian women's group. Problems with one woman. Finally it is my turn. The 30-35 year-old-looking man next to him is his son. He did not even raise his head from the paper he was reading. The father immediately asked, "How did you find me? Who gave you a reference?" I responded in general terms, "A friend of mine recommended you." He did not look satisfied. He asked me what type of service I needed and how much I was willing to pay. He told me that he had women from Ukraine, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Bulgaria. Indeed, women who are waiting for clients stay at his hotel. This hotel owner in Sirkeci is involved in an illegal business, without establishing a legitimate company and without paying tax.

He asked for one billion TL per month for a young woman. He said he would take 60 percent and the woman 40 percent. But he also said he would personally deliver the woman. He decided to use such a method after some incidents. A client who employed her as a servant made indecent proposals and the woman complained to him about the client. They immediately took away the Ukrainian woman from that man.

As we were speaking, his son said, "If you are pleased and if the woman is happy, then there is no problem. It is between the two of you." He noted that he could show me a woman right away, but that 2-3 days later a new group would be coming and that I would have a better selection. He added, "I wanted to meet you personally because I cannot make such arrangements immediately following the first encounter." I told him I would come back after the new group arrives. He asked for a phone number to call me. I told him that I would call him and left.

The slave market works like this: women from the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Bulgaria and Moldova are sent to

Turkey by brokers who have contacts here. These women first pay a commission to the brokers. Later the brokers in Turkey meet with them. They rent these women and keep their passports. Women are sent to houses to work, as if they are the property of these brokers or consultation companies. Nothing is legal in this business. Neither do the women have work permits, nor do they have any social security. They do not pay taxes either.

Following my three-day research, I see the inhuman implementations. In some of those consultation companies, there are rooms for these women. They live all together in these single rooms until the clients leave. Some women are covered in bruises, and others are dirty. A client walks into those rooms and picks one. I could not get permission, as a "Tempo" writer, to take pictures of these rooms.

Certainly working women and men do need to have domestic help, and there are those companies which are involved in legal work. One of the legal businesswomen is Gulseren Aktuna, who told us how the slave market operates in Istanbul.

Aktuna, who is the owner of such a company, said, "There is almost a slave market established. The number of those who are exploiting this profession are more than those that work legally. It is time to say 'Stop' to this."

Nietzsche, who was an enemy of women, used to say, "If you are going to be with a woman, do not forget your whip," and "Men who would receive lessons on war and women should entertain men." Hegel had comments on slavery. In the Istanbul of the 21st century, there is a slave market. There is fear. Neither the battered women speak, nor do those with a conscience and who do not approve of what is going on. But still a woman spoke to "Tempo" and gives the entire picture. Aktuna said, "There are consultation companies that are involved in prostitution in some of the villas in Zekeriyakoy."

Interview with Gulseren Aktuna, owner of a consultation company. There are women who are tortured and raped. There is a very ugly market established in Turkey for this. For example: Laleli. There is almost a human market there. Women coming from Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan and other Turkic Republics and who speak some Turkish are brought here and a slave market is created. They are exposing people. People go there and pick one and take her home for household help. But it is not clear where these women go. There are women who go to houses where they are tortured and raped. There is no responsibility taken by the broker. He disappears after he takes the money. On the other hand, people who genuinely look for household help, too, go to these markets. But there are those who are subject to harassment or theft by those who come into the house.

When you look at such companies, you can see that companies who are exploiting this business are more than those who do regular work. There are those who are involved in prostitution in villas in Zekeriyakoy under the guise of a consultation company. But then there are very serious institutions that have been involved in serious work. There are those who employ people from Bulgaria and Moldova with no ties to their countries, and such companies broker for them. The consultation company must also provide social security. If the employing family covers those charges, the price goes up further.

These women are in the position of illegal workers. There is nothing legal about it. Such companies must be paying their tax differently.

In the past we had our mothers and neighbors take care of our children. Now the young people look for people who have a good education and who can take care of their children. We all work. People have only Sunday off and should they spare that day to clean the house? Others employ a person who can look after their children around the clock.

In general, we give our employees to people with a certain economic background. It is not easy to employ a person. In the slave market, people work for 200-300 USD or 350 million TL. Our company charges 500-600 million TL for an untrained employee. For babies, we employ a person for a few months before the baby is born and she is responsible for the baby until it is one and half years old. Her rate is 1500-2000 YTL. The price changes for twins. The only work the nanny

does is with the baby - nothing else. But they have training and experience in this field. This section has good sides and wrongs sides as well. END TEXT.

17. Published by The Turkish Daily News on Wednesday, October 19:

TITLE: Police recover babies sold to childless couples

BEGIN TEXT: French investigators of human trafficking have recovered five babies allegedly sold for 5,000 euros-6,000 euros (5,970-7,160 USD) by their mothers to couples without children, police said. Police said the babies, aged about 1, were in good health and had not been mistreated. Several couples were in custody. Investigators from a police office against human trafficking recovered the infants in sweeps on Tuesday in the Paris region and in Brittany in northwest France. END TEXT.

18. Published by TurkishPress.com on Wednesday, October 19:

TITLE: Turkish Police Arrest 557 Illegal Migrants in Istanbul

BEGIN TEXT: Turkish police arrested 557 illegal migrants who entered Turkey illegally, in their operations in the Turkish metropolis of Istanbul in the last week, sources said on Friday.

Sources told an A.A. correspondent that the majority of the detainees were of Pakistani origin. According to these sources, the illegal migrants wanted to sneak into European countries via Turkey, and paid 3,000-8,000 USD per person to those who aided and abetted them.

Police had been searching for five people in connection with human trafficking, said the same sources.

They added that the illegal migrants would be deported after legal proceedings. END TEXT.

19. Published by Minsk Belapan on Wednesday, October 19:

TITLE: Belarusian Police Arrest Suspected Human Trafficker

BEGIN FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT: Criminal proceedings have been launched against a 28-year-old female resident of Kobryn [Brest Region] who is suspected of human trafficking.

The department of information and public relations of the Brest regional police directorate told Belapan that the criminal case was launched under Article 181 Part 2 of the Penal Code (trafficking in people) on 18 October. The proceedings were instituted on the basis of material received from the regional police directorate's department for combating illicit drug trafficking and vice-related crimes. The district centre resident is suspected of trafficking a 23-year-old female resident of Brest to Turkey and selling her to an unidentified individual for 500 dollars for sexual exploitation in November 2003.

Police officers in the Brest Region closed off 13 channels for trafficking women abroad for sexual exploitation [in January-September 2005]. END FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT.

10. Reported by UzReport.com on Tuesday, October 25:

TITLE: Conference Addresses Human Trafficking Issues

BEGIN TEXT: A two-day conference entitled "Combating trafficking in persons" opened in Tashkent on 25 October.

The Istiqbolli Avlod Youth-Information Center, in cooperation with the Interior Ministry of Uzbekistan, organized the event. Istiqbolli directs its activity to fight human trafficking and inform people about it.

Representatives of the Uzbek government and international organizations, as well as neighboring countries and Russia, are participating in the event.

Nadira Karimov, regional coordinator of the project "Prevention of Human Trafficking" of the International Office for Migration said that 562 cases of illegal recruitment of people to work abroad were registered in Tashkent and 302 in Samarkand. She said that 1,465 cases of human trafficking were registered in Uzbekistan last year. The main destination countries for human trafficking are Israel, the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Kazakhstan and Thailand.

Ilkhom Abdulhuseynov, head of the consulate department of the Uzbek Foreign Ministry, said that recently there have been cases where Uzbek citizens obtained passports of neighboring countries and put themselves in difficult situations when they lost their passports abroad. He said that the Uzbek consulate issued certificates to allow Uzbek citizens to return home.
END TEXT.

[11.](#) Published by newKerala.com on Wednesday, October 26:

TITLE: Illegal Asian immigrants seek asylum in Kosovo

BEGIN TEXT: Pristina: A group of illegal immigrants from Asian countries have sought asylum in Kosovo after they were detained by the airport police here. "Of the 13 immigrants, ten are from Bangladesh, two from Pakistan and one from India," said Helvise Gallet, protection officer of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). They have not been interviewed yet because UNHCR was so far unable to find translators, Gallet said. The immigrants arrived on a flight from Istanbul.

It was the second group of asylum seekers within 10 days to arrive in Kosovo from Turkey.

Six Bangladeshis detained earlier this month are still waiting for the UN mission in Kosovo to decide their fate, with deportation to Turkey remaining a possibility.

With its porous borders, Kosovo, administered by the UN for the last six years, has become a Balkan hub for international human trafficking.

In August, UN police arrested three Pakistani police officers under suspicion of involvement in the lucrative business of transferring immigrants from Kosovo into Serbia and Montenegro. They were later released due to lack of evidence. END TEXT.

[12.](#) Published by Regnum News Agency (Moscow) on Wednesday, October 26 and the Kazakh information agency (Kazinform) on Thursday, October 27:

TITLE: About 1,500 cases of human trafficking spotted in Uzbekistan last year

BEGIN TEXT: According to Nadira Karimova, coordinator of the "Counteraction to human trafficking in Central Asia and Uzbekistan" project, since the beginning of 2005 there have been 1465 cases of human trafficking reported, as a Regnum correspondent reports from "Counteraction to human trafficking" conference, which ended on October 26 in Tashkent.

Karimova said that only in Tashkent and Samarkand (Uzbekistan's two largest cities), 762 cases of illegal recruiting of people to work abroad have been identified. Mostly Uzbekistani citizens go illegally to Israel, Russia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, "and we must remember it when granting visas to the so-called 'tourist groups' heading towards these countries," stressed Karimova.

The head of the Uzbekistani ministry of foreign affairs consulate department Ilham Abdulkhuseinov stated that there was an increase of cases, when Uzbekistani citizens leave the country with passports of neighboring states that they received illegally. "And such workers are ideal for all employers because they are absolutely deprived of civil rights," said Abdulkhuseinov.

The "Counteraction to human trafficking in Central Asia and Uzbekistan" project has been created to help such people come back to their home countries, providing psychological, legal and medical help.

The founders of the project are "Istikbolly avlod" Youth Information Center and the Interior Ministry of Uzbekistan.

Representatives of various ministries, state prosecution, women's committees of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia and foreign foundations participated in the conference. END TEXT.

[13.](#) Published by Aksam on Friday, October 28:

TITLE: I was sold for 1300 dollars

BEGIN TEXT: Kidnapped Russian tour guide Glena Turovlena said, "I was taken to a villa in Izmir and found out that I was sold for 1300 dollars. When they

heard that my father is a colonel in the Russian Army, they let me go."

The Russian guide, who was allegedly kidnapped by people dressed as policemen three days ago in Antalya, was liberated.

Glena Turovlena (22) claimed that she was sold to a trafficker in Izmir and recounted her horrible days to Aksam.

Turovlena noted that she had lived through horrible hours during the kidnapping and added, "On the day of the incident, we were working on a transfer (airport). A car stopped. Two policemen came down and showed their IDs. Later they asked for my ID and invited me to the police station. I informed my friend about the situation and got into the car (of the so-called policemen). When my friend called the police and noticed that the policeman was not aware of the incident, she called me. When I told them that the policeman was not informed, they took away my phone and then I realized that I had been kidnapped."

She noted that her kidnappers were driving towards Alanya. "They took me and three other girls to a villa where I learned that we had been sold for 1300 USD each. When I told them that I was involved in tourism and that my father was a colonel in the Russian army, they were intimidated. They told me that they would release me. Later they put a bus ticket in my pocket along with a five million lira bill. They put me on the Antalya bus and told me that I should not tell anyone what happened," she said.

As soon as she arrived in Antalya, she went to the police to testify. The police are now searching for a person known as "Scorpio."

Caption under photo: Yevgenya Koroglu, who shares a home with the young Russian woman, said, "I am very glad to see my friend. This incident was a lesson for us. We will be more cautious from now on." END TEXT.

[14.](#) Published by Sabah on Monday, October 31:

TITLE: 198 women saved with one phone call

BEGIN TEXT: The 157 hotline, set up to serve women brought to Turkey from abroad with great expectations, but who find themselves as victims, has been operational since May. Selin Unal, Project Assistant for IOM, said that mostly women brought to Turkey from Ukraine, Moldova and Russia call this line. Unal said, "Twenty-six percent of those who call the 157 hotline and give information are the victims themselves; seventy-four percent are either a friend or a client of the victim."

She went on, "Women who are forced into prostitution are so frightened and scared to call us." She summarized their (the hotline's) duty as, "Our mission is to serve as a bridge between law enforcement and victims."

Unal noted that they have been working with experts who speak five languages and that for those who call 157 and get saved are sent to a shelter. She noted, "Currently there is a shelter in Istanbul in connection with the fight against human trafficking. A second shelter will soon be operational in Ankara."

A Moldovan who received help from the 157 hotline, but who wanted to remain anonymous, told of her experience and liberation as "My country was in an economic hardship. A friend told me that I would earn good money if I served as a dancer in Turkey. He arranged my plane ticket and passport. But those who greeted me in Antalya took away my passport and told me that I was brought to serve as a prostitute. They said that I did not have an alternative and that if I objected I would be killed. I called an NGO in Moldova at the first opportunity. They asked me to call the 157 hotline in Turkey. I called 157 and told the operator about my situation and location. The Antalya police saved me from the hotel."

TITLE: From ages 19-25.

Selin Unal, Project Assistant for the International Office for Migration said that the average age of women brought to Turkey is from 19 to 25. Twenty-six percent of the calls to 157 are from victims and 74 percent are from friends or customers of victims. END TEXT.

[15.](#) Published in Aksam on Monday, October 31:

TITLE: Girl runs away from orphanage and is dragged

into prostitution

BEGIN TEXT: 16-year-old N.G., who ran away from the orphanage in Gaziantep's Nizip district, was caught practicing prostitution in a minibus with two other women. The girl was conned into escaping for the orphanage with a promise of marriage and fell into the hands of a prostitution ring. It was discovered that N.G. was forced into prostitution. "My friend D's step mother, Z.T., was going to marry me off to 21-year-old I.G. She promised me. I believed it and escaped from the orphanage. I understood later that she lied to me. When I resisted, I was beaten up and threatened with my life. Because I was afraid, I did what she wanted," N.G. said in her statement to police.

As a result of N.G.'s statement, step-mother Z.T. and her imam nikahli spouse (a marriage sanctioned by an imam, but not by the government) M.T. were arrested. Mehmet Merkepcio glu, Director of the Kilis Social Services, said that he notified police when N.G. ran away from the orphanage. END TEXT.

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